



**H***elp* **A***merica* **V***ote* **A***ct*

**Janice K. Brewer**  
**Secretary of State**

*State of Arizona*  
*Preliminary State Plan*

March 18, 2003



**JAN BREWER**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**  
**STATE OF ARIZONA**

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) is civil rights legislation to ensure voters are treated equally across the United States of America. I am proud to say that here in the State of Arizona, many of the federal election reforms brought by HAVA are already addressed in our own state law and procedures.

HAVA will significantly change our state election process as we replace punch card voting systems in 9 counties, add new DRE (touch screen) equipment to every precinct in the state, and implement new statewide systems to address voter registration, grievance process and provisional balloting. All these are daunting new tasks which bring powerful new responsibilities. I truly believe it will take a yeoman-like effort to ensure each new requirement is implemented correctly. As Arizona Secretary of State, it is with great pleasure I present the 2003 Preliminary State Plan for election reform.

This Arizona Preliminary State Plan identifies the priorities and specific steps our state will take to address election reform and bring Arizona into compliance with HAVA. The Plan was developed in conjunction with the State Planning Committee and was adopted unanimously from the group of state officials, legislative representatives, local officials, party representatives and individuals with special interests in improving access to the disabled.

Although HAVA increases responsibility for election administration at the State level in order to establish consistency across the state, the Secretary of State acknowledges that the county recorders and election officials are charged with the conduct of elections and are critical to the elections process. As we move forward, the Secretary of State will continue to encourage coordination, cooperation, and collaboration between the local officials on innovations and technology as we mutually share in a successful new election process.

Within this Preliminary State Plan, Arizona encourages election accessibility for individuals with disabilities and those with alternative language considerations. Arizona has already taken significant steps to improve polling place accessibility and is in the process of implementing an accessible, uniform statewide voting system. We will continue to strive toward accessibility throughout all aspects of the elections process.

In presenting this new plan, let me point out it is a living, breathing document in which we will need to update and refine as necessary over time, to reflect effective election reform. Overall, Arizona is in a good position relative to meeting the HAVA requirements. I welcome the challenges of HAVA and look forward to receiving appropriate financial support from the federal government as we continue our efforts to lead the nation in election reform.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice K. Brewer".

Janice K. Brewer  
Arizona Secretary of State